

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SOPN, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH PRESS REACTION TO THE TREATMENT OF SPAIN
AT THE NATO SUMMIT

1. IN GENERAL, THE SPANISH PRESS NOTED ACCURATELY THAT
THE POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO PLAYED NO
IMPORTANT PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE SUMMIT. PUBLIC
STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY, SYG LUNS AND THE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN, ALL OF WHICH UNDERLINED THAT THE DECISION ON
MEMBERSHIP WAS ONE FOR THE SPANISH TO MAKE, RECEIVED
CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION HERE. ALSO UNDERLINED IN
SOME SPANISH PRESS REPORTS WERE INDICATIONS THAT NONE OF
THE ALLIES INTENDED TO PLACE ANY PRESSURE ON SPAIN
REGARDING ITS DECISION. AN OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENT BY
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PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN TO THE PRESS ON GIBRALTAR WHICH
WAS TAKEN HERE AS A STIFFENING OF THE UK POSITION DREW
NOT ONLY A STRONG REACTION FROM THE SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER BUT ALSO SOME RENEWED PRESS SUPPORT FOR REGARD-
ING RESOLUTION OF THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION AS A PRE-
CONDITION FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP.

2. JOINING SOME LEFT-OF-CENTER CRITICS OF SPANISH ENTRY, THE ONE MADRID DAILY NEWSPAPER WHICH SENT A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FROM MADRID TO COVER THE SUMMIT, THE INFLUENTIAL MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD "YA", CONCLUDED IN AN EDITORIAL JUNE 8: "SPAIN HAS BECOME ALMOST AN OBSESSION FOR NATO. AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL THERE IS ADMITTEDLY NOTHING DEFINITE AS YET. BUT THE U.S. AND THE FRG, IN THEIR OWN WAY, ARE LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN SHOULD PROCEED FROM NOW ON VIA THE NATO PATH." THE EDITORIAL BEGINS BY REFERRING TO REPORTS OF A RECENT STATEMENT BY CINCSOUTH URGING EARLY SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. IT THEN CLAIMS NATO HAS FIRM PLANS FOR SPAIN AND CHARGES, AS HAD SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JOSE COLCHERO IN HIS FEATURED REPORTS, THAT ALLIED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR SPAIN ARE TIED TO THE BEGINNINGS OF A SPANISH OBLIGATION TO JOIN, WHICH THE EDITORIAL CLAIMS "CONSTITUTES CAMOUFLAGED INTERFERENCE IN SPANISH AFFAIRS." IT TERMS AN INSIDIOUS FORM OF PRESSURE ON DOUBTERS AND OPPONENTS TO SPANISH ENTRY WHAT COLCHERO CLAIMED TO BE THE TYING TOGETHER BY THE ALLIES OF THE EC AND NATO MEMBERSHIP ISSUES.

3. PERHAPS REFLECTING SOME QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD THINGS HE MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN AS A SITE FOR AIR-TO-GROUND TRAINING, COLCHERO TITLED ONE IN THE SERIES OF HIS ARTICLES "NATO WANTS TO MAKE OF SPAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A TARGET RANGE." HE ALSO SUGGESTED EXTREME FRG INTEREST IN ACCESS TO THE PRESENT U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN, WHICH IS AT PRESENT DENIED BY THE GOS. HE SUGGESTED FURTHER THAT, WHILE THE U.S. WOULD FAVOR ALLIED ACCESS TO ITS MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN, IT WOULD NOT REJECT RENEGOTIATION OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT SHOULD SPAIN NOT JOIN NATO. FURTHER, HE ATTRIBUTED TO NATO MILITARY CIRCLES THE VIEW THAT SPANISH ENTRY WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PLACE THE CANARY ISLANDS UNDER THE NATO UMBRELLA.

4. COLCHERO ALSO REPORTS HE HAS IT FROM WELL-PLACED SOURCES IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAVE TORREJON AFB WERE THE GOS TO ASK IT, MOVING OPERATIONS TO ZARAGOZA AND PERHAPS MORON.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS AT TIMES A VERY FINE LINE BETWEEN SPANISH PLEASURE AT ALLIED INTEREST IN SPAIN'S JOINING THE ALLIANCE AND SPANISH BRISTLING AT WHAT IS TAKEN FOR PRESSURE TO JOIN. EATON

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